

## EARLY POTATOES VERY IMPORTANT

Some Essential Points in Growing That Average Gardener Is Apt to Overlook.

### FOOD SUPPLY MUST BE READY

God, Plump, Disease-Free and Plenty of Fertilizer Are Essential—Keep Bugs Off by Dusting or Spraying.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

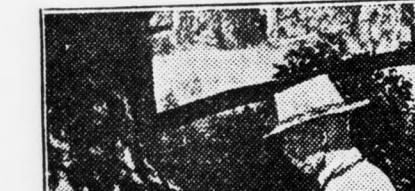
Irish potatoes are grown in most home gardens, but there are just a few points in the potato-growing game that the home gardener is likely to overlook which are very important. First of all, potatoes grow quickly and therefore must be all ready and waiting for them in the soil. Second, they are heavy feeders and want plenty to draw upon. In other words, the soil for Irish potatoes must not only be rich but also in the right kind of organic matter. Land that was well manured the previous season, and which contains plenty of organic matter is best. The secret in preparing the soil will be to spade or plow it to a depth of eight or nine inches, then break up the clods, if there are any, and pulverize the soil practically as deep as it is spaded or plowed.

#### How to Use Fertilizer.

Commercial fertilizers give good results for growing potatoes, especially if the fertilizer contains potash, as potatoes require more potash than is usually present in the soil. Fertilizer manufacturers mix special potato fertilizers, which are generally rather rich in potash. How much fertilizer to use will depend upon the fertility of the soil, but as a rule eight pounds to each 100 feet of row will be about right. If you have an empty fertilizer barrel, make the holes or burrows and drop the pieces of seed potato, cover them with an inch or two of soil, then scatter the fertilizer along the row so that it will be well mixed with the soil and completing the covering of the seed. Another method is to scatter the fertilizer in the furrow and mix it with the soil before dropping the pieces of seed potato.

#### Best Kind of Seed.

Small, shivelled potatoes, left in the bottom of the barrel at the end of winter, are not fit for use. Only plump, disease-free potatoes, on which the sprouts are well developed, should be used for seed. Seed grown in Maine, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, or some other special seed producing section will as a rule give best results. Seedmen get the seed potatoes



Potatoes Should Be Cut Into Chunky Pieces With At Least One Eye to a Piece.

shipped in by the carload and then sold them to gardeners in small quantities. It takes about ten bushels (one pound) of seed potatoes to plant one-tenth of an acre, which is a space 43 feet wide by 100 feet long. A pack of seed potatoes (10 pounds) should plant 300 feet of row, so eatable roots being cut, which leaves having at least one good eye to a piece.

Seed potatoes should not be cut until all ready to plant. Whenever seed potatoes are cut and allowed to stand, the cut ends soon turn brown, and the seeds lose their vitality very rapidly. Scrubbed or diseased seed potatoes should not be used for planting. The variety of potatoes to plant will depend largely upon locality. Irish, Coluber, and other leading early Ohio, Triumph, Green Mountain, and others are grown extensively. Plant the variety most commonly grown in the locality, to be sure that the seed is free from disease and is in good sound condition.

#### Root System Economic.

A much simpler irrigation system consists of small furrows, made along the rows of plants, which are filled with water. After the water has soaked into the soil the furrows should be filled with dry soil. In order to irrigate by the furrow system the land must be broken up or slope grading in one direction. The bulk of earth can be put in the furrow at intervals to hold the water from flowing to the lower end, thus distributing it to every part of the row.

Do not plant potatoes too deep. Four inches is about the proper depth. Leave the surface almost level and see that there are no clods, stones, or pieces of trash混入 the soil over the potato bed. This is the first point to cross to plant in the springtime, and it is safe to put the seed in the ground two or three weeks before the date of the last heavy frost. In case the frost comes earlier, however, do not come up, cover them with an inch or two of loose earth to protect them. They may be uncovered as soon as the weather warms up or they come up through the soil themselves.

#### Meals From Home Garden.

Every member of the family requires nearly 1,100 meals annually. How many of those are coming from the home garden this year?

#### Save Soil Moisture.

Early plowing saves soil moisture. Harrow or disk as soon as the texture of the soil will permit.

#### Sun Needed for Garden.

Don't plant a garden where the sun does not sit for at least five hours each bright day.

### GARDEN VALUE AIDED BY PERENNIAL CROPS

Bush Fruits Should Be Grown Where Space Permits.

**Asparagus Will Thrive Almost Everywhere in Good Soil—Rhubarb Can Be Planted Along Fence—Utilize All Space.**

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The making of women's clothes constitutes the largest industry in the world. The uninhibited may speak of the body, but nevertheless, writes a fashion authority, it is a bigger and more important subject, yielding a more widespread interest than most people realize. One of Bernadine's contributions to fashion is the belted beige blouse embroidered in dark blue has the embroidery appearing down the center of the coat, on the collar and forming a deep border for the belt-shaped sleeve. The pointed front and low-cutting back are left entirely plain. Just below the waistline the armholes are looped and exaggerated armholes are looped and

should not be overlooked. One of these is asparagus, which will thrive almost anywhere, provided it is planted in good soil. A plot of ground 15 to 20 feet square in one corner of the garden will supply all of the asparagus needed by an average family.

A few hills of lavender in sections where space can be planted along the garden fence and furnish the family supply. The same is true of horse radish and of a number of herbs, including thyme, tarragon, sage.

Groups of the type and variety suited to the locality should always be included in the home garden. These can be grown on an arbor over the

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